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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3518
INFO RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE 4153
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 2127
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE 0631
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 002131

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/10/2017

TAGS: PREL AORC JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN YET TO CONSIDER CANDIDATES FOR COLOMBO PLAN

REF: STATE 58691

Classified By: Acting Deputy Chief of Mission W. Michael Meserve
for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Japan has not yet decided which candidate to support to be the next Secretary General of the Colombo Plan, according to Michiko Nakano of MOFA's First Country Assistance Planning Division. She anticipates MOFA will finish evaluating the candidates and reach a decision by the middle of next week. So far, MOFA has been approached by the Embassies of Bhutan, Iran, and Korea to advocate on behalf of their candidates.

¶2. (C) Nakano was surprised when told the USG is favorably impressed by the Malaysian candidate, and responded that the Japanese Embassy in Colombo is under the impression that Ms. Chia's candidacy has not yet been formally advanced by her government. That said, Nakano agreed that Chia's credentials are impressive.

¶3. (U) Embassy will follow up with MOFA next week to determine which way Japan is leaning once they've reached a decision on who to support.

DONOVAN